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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Rumania

SUBJECT: Train Travel from Bucharest to Prague/ Availability of Necessities/Apparent Soviet Influence/Agriculture and Collective Farms

REPORT

DATE DISTRIBUTED: 23 Dec 1954

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT # 50X1-HUM

RESPONSIVE TO 50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, or between which events or conditions described in report existed) 50X1-HUM

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4. The railroad line [redacted] from Bucharest to Prague was European gauge. The train consisted of three international cars in addition to local coaches which were used in one country. One international car ran from Sofia to Prague. A second international car ran from Sofia to Bucharest. A third car ran from Sofia to Budapest.

5. The train had an excellent water system, it was air conditioned and the electric lighting was excellent. The service was good. The engine was a coal-burning type and from Bucharest to the Hungarian border, the train carried 10 passenger coaches, all but two of which were dropped at the Hungarian border. The road bed was very good and appeared to be rock ballast all the way [redacted] 50X1-HUM

6. [redacted] people who crossed the Rumanian-Hungarian border with the exception of one woman from Sofia, who was traveling to Prague. While in Rumania, the train was very crowded and reservations were required for a seat in the second class coach, but in Hungary and Czechoslovakia the train was almost empty. It was possible to buy food on the train if one had money. 50X1-HUM

[redacted]

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7. A considerable amount of time was lost at the borders. [redacted] 50X1-HUM [redacted] for more than two hours at the Rumanian-Hungarian border, and again more than two hours at the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian border. 50X1-HUM

8. [redacted] documents were checked while in the coach. [redacted] suit cases were searched only when [redacted] left Rumania, [redacted] 50X1-HUM [redacted]

9. In leaving the country, the Minister of Finance gave [redacted] the right to buy US$30 for 180 Rumanian lei. The fare from Bucharest to Prague was 302 lei each by train for second class coach. The fare would have been 600 lei if [redacted] traveled by air. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

10. In leaving Rumania, [redacted] not permitted to bring any pictures, address books or printed matter of any kind. [redacted] permitted a maximum of 30 kilograms of baggage for each person and all clothing had to be used. Nothing new is permitted to be taken out of the country. Nothing of wool is permitted to be taken out of the country and no jewelry can be taken out. A thorough search [redacted] of [redacted] baggage for such items. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

11. The exit permit given [redacted] was in the form of a single sheet, which listed [redacted] pictures as well as biographic data, and the permit was marked that re-entry into Rumania was not permitted. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

12. The exit permit was visaed on the back by the legations of Hungary and Czechoslovakia in Bucharest as well as stamped by various Rumanian government agencies. [redacted] a 75 lei fee for the exit permit, and the consulate fees were 11 lei for the Hungarian visa, 30 lei for the Czech visa, and 300 lei for the US visa. 50X1-HUM

13. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

14. [redacted]

15. [redacted]

16. [redacted]

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17. While house and apartment rents are low in Rumania because they belong to the government, everything else is extremely high. [redacted] 14 lei per month for rent, [redacted] a radio use tax of 500 lei for three months. 50X1-HUM

18. There is a black market in Bucharest, but rates are not very much over the official government rate. However, it is possible to get much higher quality goods on the black market than one can get through normal channels. 50X1-HUM

Buying Food - Wearing Apparel

19. As of October 1954, bread was still rationed and a man is authorized 350 grams per day if he works. His wife is authorized 300 grams a day. A working man is authorized 300 grams of meat a week and his wife is authorized 150 grams a week. However, if a man is not working, neither he nor his wife gets anything. As far as meat is concerned, the meat available is mostly beef. There is practically no pork available.

20. It is possible to get milk once in a while if one stands in line for hours. Milk is not rationed, but it costs over US$0¢ a liter. If one buys from a farmer, he pays three lei per liter. Eggs, when available, cost the equivalent of US$0¢ per egg.

21. Sugar is rationed, and costs 2-1/2 lei per kilo. A working man is entitled to 500 grams of sugar per month, and a working man's wife is entitled to 400 grams per month. There is no coffee available and none has been available since 1940. What passes for coffee is made out of seeds and cereal.

22. If a man is working, after six months of employment, he can buy clothes and shoes, which are still rationed. A working man is entitled to one suit per year, which costs 350 lei.

23. A working man is entitled to one pair of shoes per year plus one pair of soles. Cost of a pair of shoes is 70 lei. A working man's wife is entitled to one pair of shoes per year, but no soles.

Household Accessories

24. Furniture and household appliances are practically non-available. Only government agencies can buy electrical equipment.

25. Lumber is likewise not available for ordinary citizens and tin is in the same category. Many roofs in Bucharest are covered with tin. If a roof leaks, it takes over six months to obtain permission from the government to obtain a small piece of tin to plug up the hole in the roof. Such permits are received from the City Hall.

26. Homes are heated with wood, which is also rationed. Wood is purchased three times a year and the consumer buys it by the kilo. A purchaser is entitled to 3,000 kilograms of wood per year.

Transportation - Street Lighting - Housing

27. Street cars and buses are jammed in Bucharest. There are very few taxis because of the high cost of petrol, which approximates 1-1/2 - 2 lei per kilo. People are generally afraid to talk or complain, but even so, the expression is often heard that although Rumania has much oil, it is all being exported and the USSR gets the money.

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28. The street lighting system is still good and electricity is available for house lighting, but the housing situation is serious in that there may be three families living in one small house. Formerly rich people have had to give up their big houses entirely. They are not even permitted to retain one room for themselves. The rich were forced to go to the outskirts of the city and obtain whatever accommodations they could get.

29. There is no curfew as such, but most people are afraid to be on the streets after dark.

30. There is no overt persecution of churches, but if one holds a good job, he is afraid to be married in a church or to have a baby baptized. However, in spite of the pressure, attendance in church has increased heavily and far exceeds church attendance prior to imposition of the Communist regime.

Medical Care

31. It is not difficult to get a doctor in Bucharest. Ordinarily if one calls for a doctor in the morning, he will be there in the afternoon. Doctors are appointed to cover a given area and there are several doctors for each area. In this connection, a different doctor each time will call on the sick person. Apparently the authorities do not want the doctors to get too well acquainted with their patients.

32. Supplies of medicinals or medicines can only be obtained if one is extremely sick and is hospitalized. It is possible to buy aspirin and quinine openly, but they are about the only medicinals that can be so purchased.

33. There is a lot of sickness in Rumania as of 1954, including a heavily increased amount of tuberculosis, cancer, and diseases due to malnutrition and overwork.

34. The hospitals are very crowded and two persons frequently occupy one bed, even maternity cases.

Document Checks - Law Enforcement

35. Document checks are made frequently on the street, and everyone over 14 years must have his "Legitimacion" or identity book, which is good for five years. It is not necessary to show one's work book, although it is necessary for every worker to have a work book, which he keeps even if he changes jobs.

36. There is great fear of the police, both uniformed and secret police, and there is no graft in the Police Department because everyone is afraid to offer them anything. The policemen are mostly very young and a high percentage are fanatic Communists. Many non-Communists are forced into spying for the secret security police. Young people particularly are arrested for no reason, given a thorough beating to soften them up, and then told to either spy for the security police or go back to jail for more beatings. Many comply with such a "request".

Industrial Installations - Working Conditions

37. In addition to other shortages, there is a very serious shortage of dyes used in the textile industry. [redacted] Manea Textil, Bucharest, a textile plant which produces cotton yard goods. The plant was faced with some serious problems because available dyes were of extremely poor quality and would fade and wash out. 50X1-HUM

38. There were enough dyes for government usage but none for the private citizen's usage.

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39. The Manca Textil was working three eight-hour shifts per day, six days a week, and the plant employed a total of 300 men. About 50% of the raw material used by the plant was reclaimed fabric.

40. The authorities are not particularly strict in working regulations, but, if one is late to work there will be an announcement on the bulletin board that "so and so was late today". However, if one is absent from work, he must have a very good excuse, which ordinarily means only a medical certificate will suffice. If a worker is sick, he will be paid 60% of his salary.

41. Government employment offices send potential workers to jobs which have been reported open. The workers get free physical examinations every six months, which include blood tests.

42. In Bucharest one sees little Soviet influence except for a large number of Zis cars and trucks. Soviet military personnel are rarely seen, and while there may be a large number of Soviet civilians in the area, they are not readily discernible.

Agriculture and Collective Farms

43. Conditions in farming areas are equally difficult for the Rumanian people to contend with. All farmers who own over one acre of land are forced to meet a quota of a variety of products for the government, even though they do not raise the products. Quotas are set on wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, fruit, meat, wool, wine, and milk. The farmer takes his quota to a central office in each village.

44. If a farmer is unable to meet his quota, he is sent to jail and is still required to meet the quota, inconsistent though this may seem.

45. The farmers in Rumania as of 1954 are still trying desperately to stay out of collective farms. Many farmers who originally joined a collective farm have withdrawn, as they say they were no better off.

46. There is considerably less live stock in Rumania than ever before, even in spite of the fact that there are more veterinarians available. This situation is due to a series of very bad winters and the slaughtering of live stock for food by the farmers.

47. Farmers are permitted to keep horses and mules as of 1954, but must register them with the government. They also must register dogs and cows with the authorities.

48. It is possible to see some Soviet tractors and harvesting equipment in rural areas, but as of 1954, Rumania is building its own national tractor at Stalin City, formerly Brasov. The state confiscated all privately owned tractors and such equipment is brought into an area only at harvesting time.

49. While traveling in rural areas, one sees a lot of militia. As of 1954, boys of 18 are drafted for two to three years of service in the military. However, some of wealthy families are put in hard labor camps instead of the army. They must perform heavy menial jobs such as digging trenches, and they are given a certain quota. If they do not meet the quota, they do not eat.

50. Although people are afraid to talk, even to old friends, except on rare occasions, there is an intense hatred of the Communist regime. The people are waiting for the US to come and liberate them.

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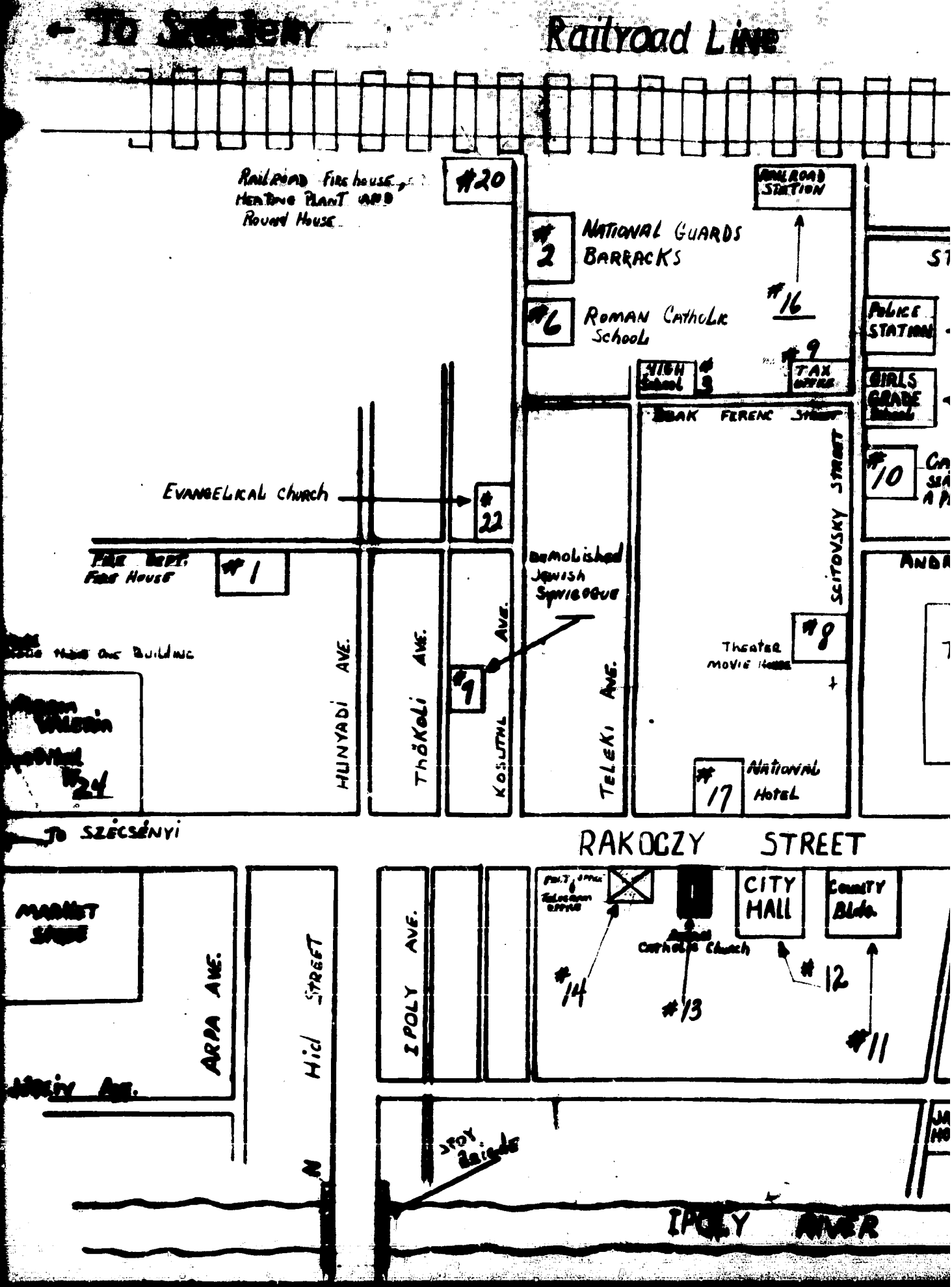

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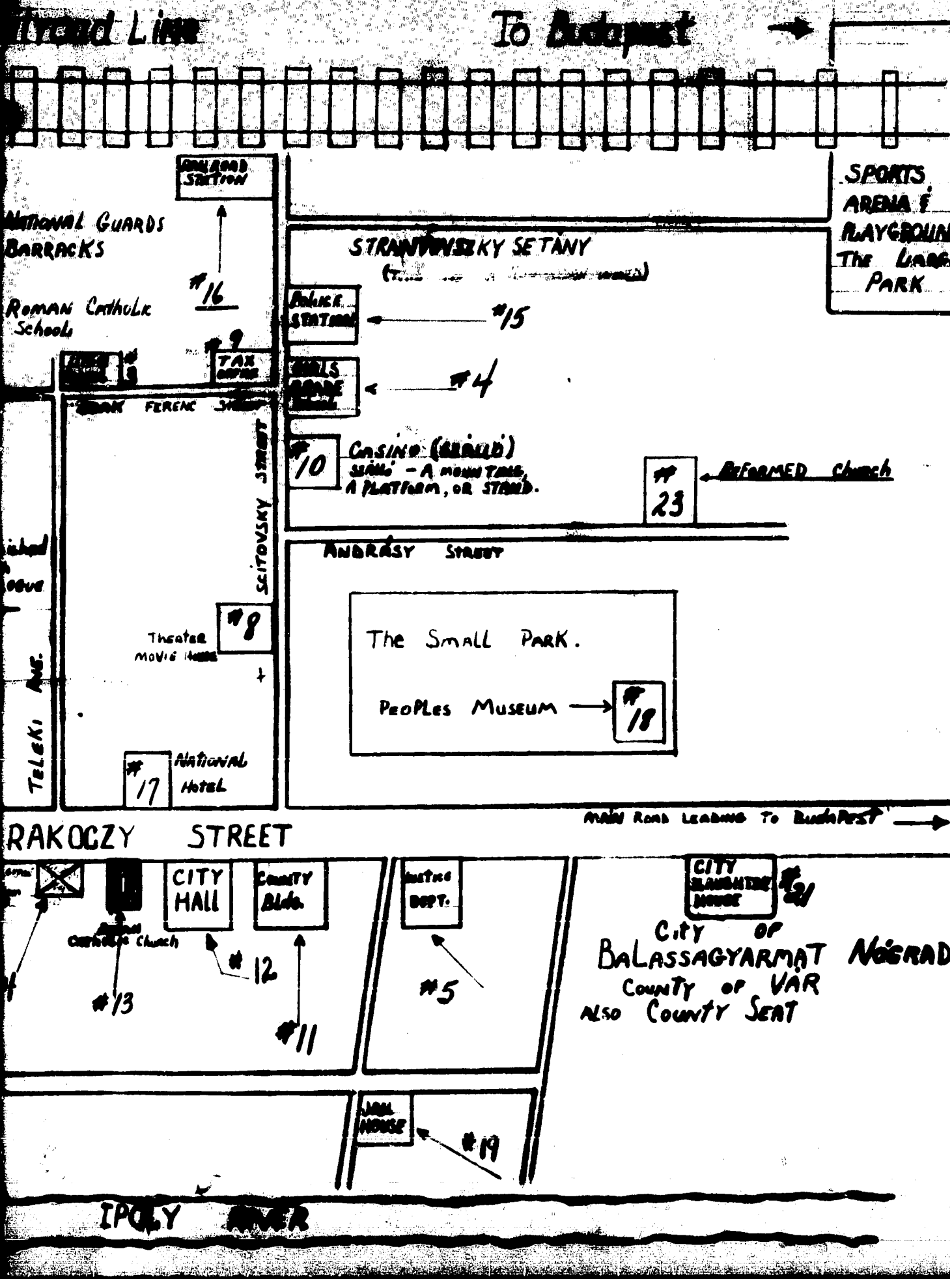

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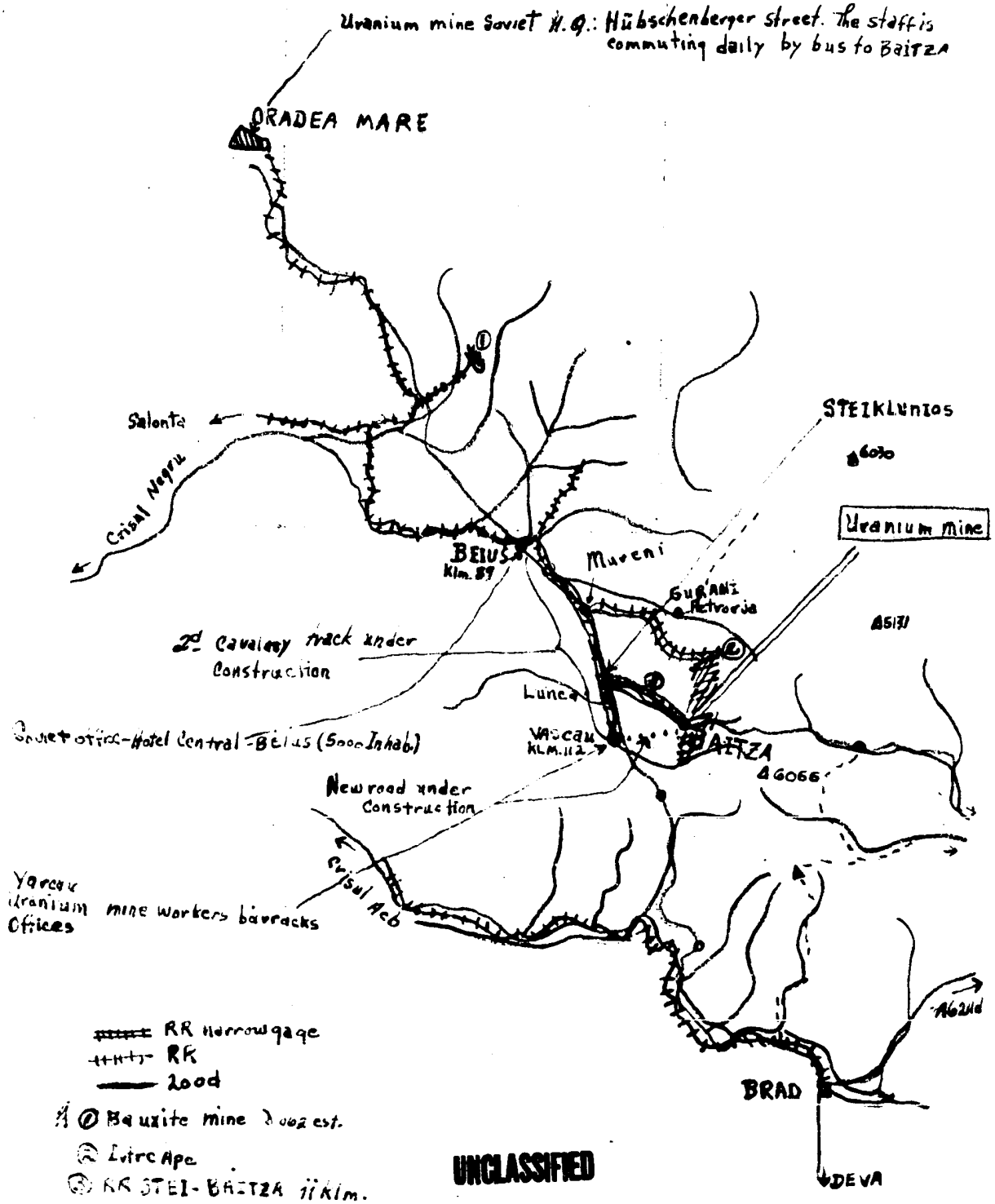

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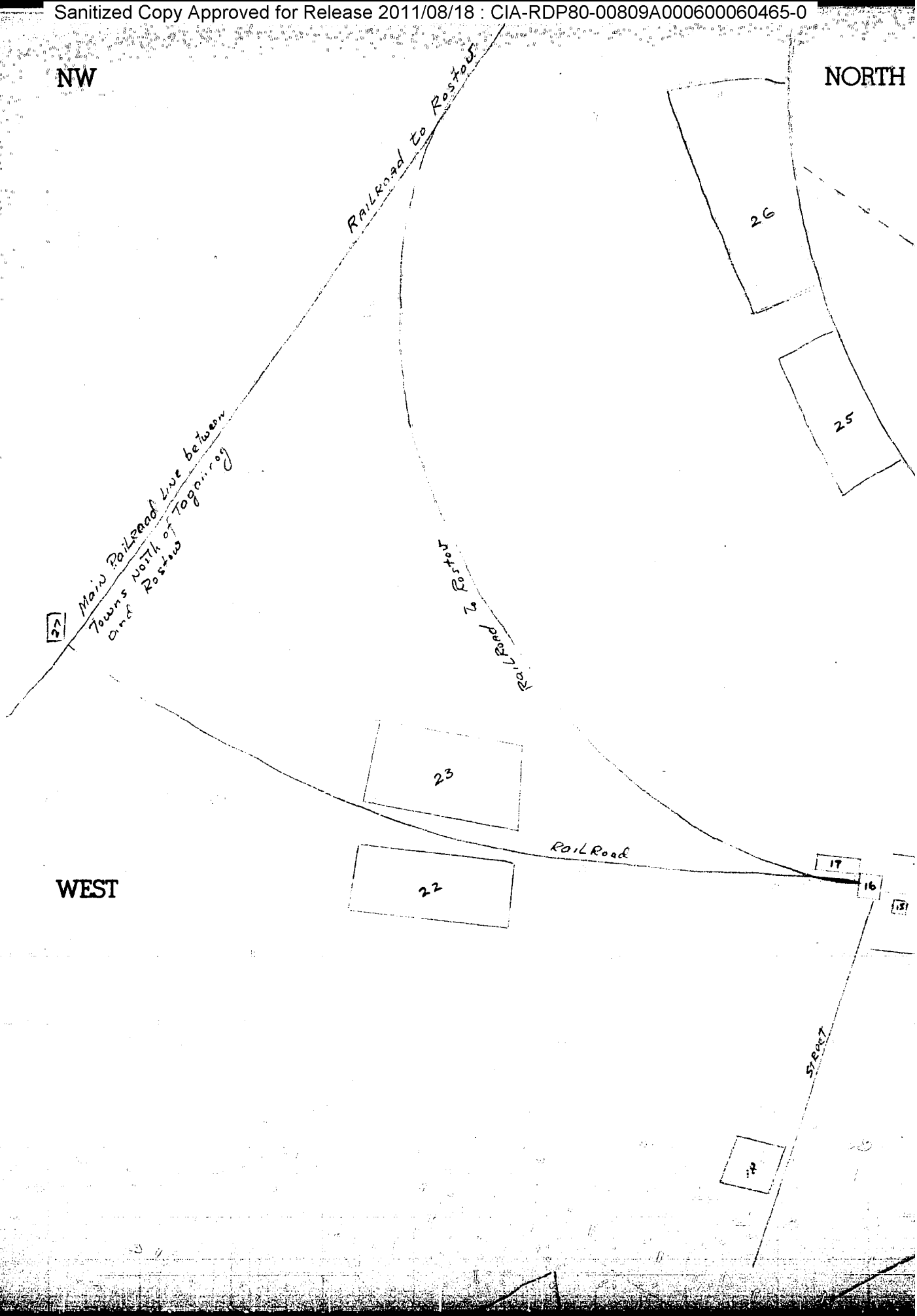

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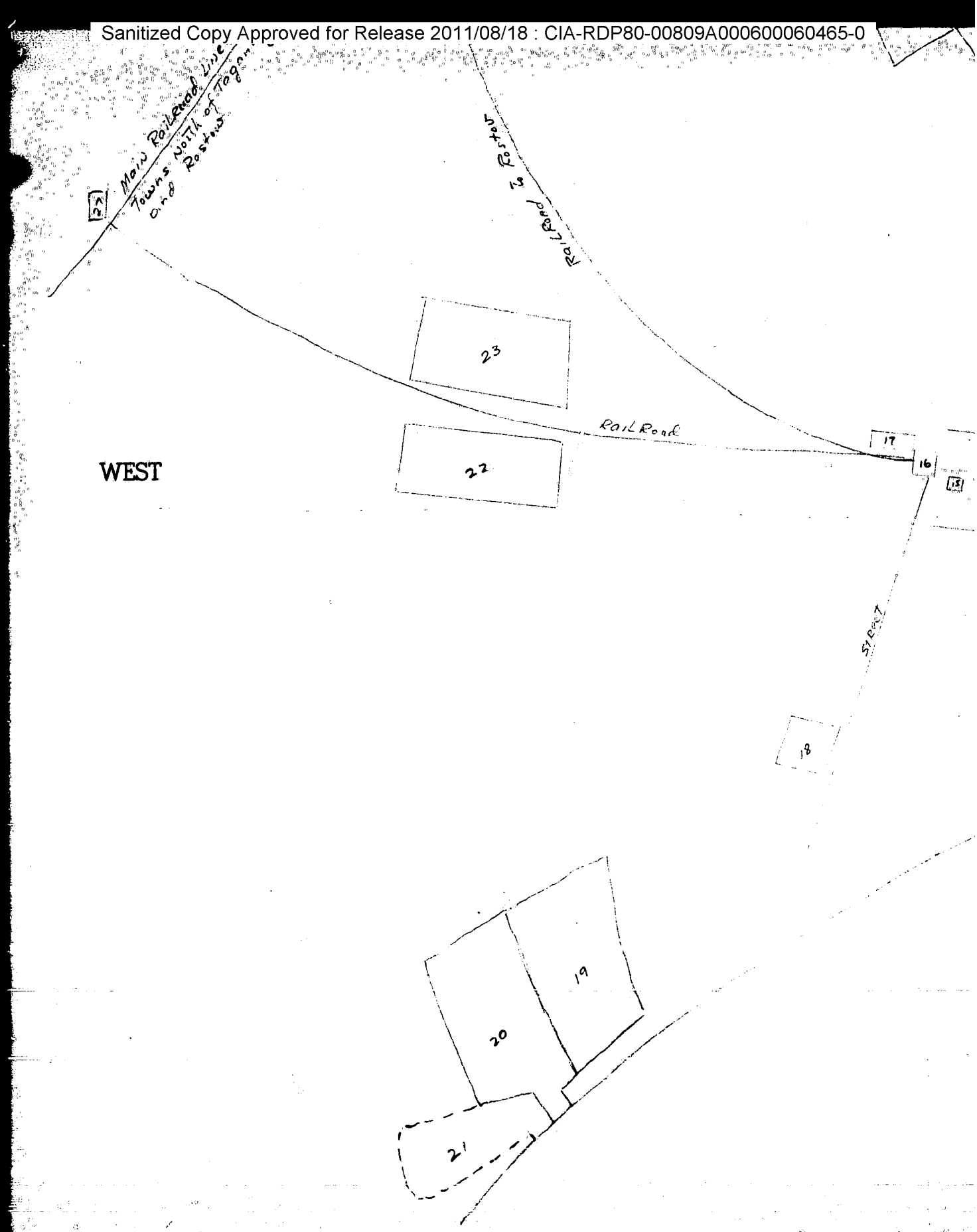

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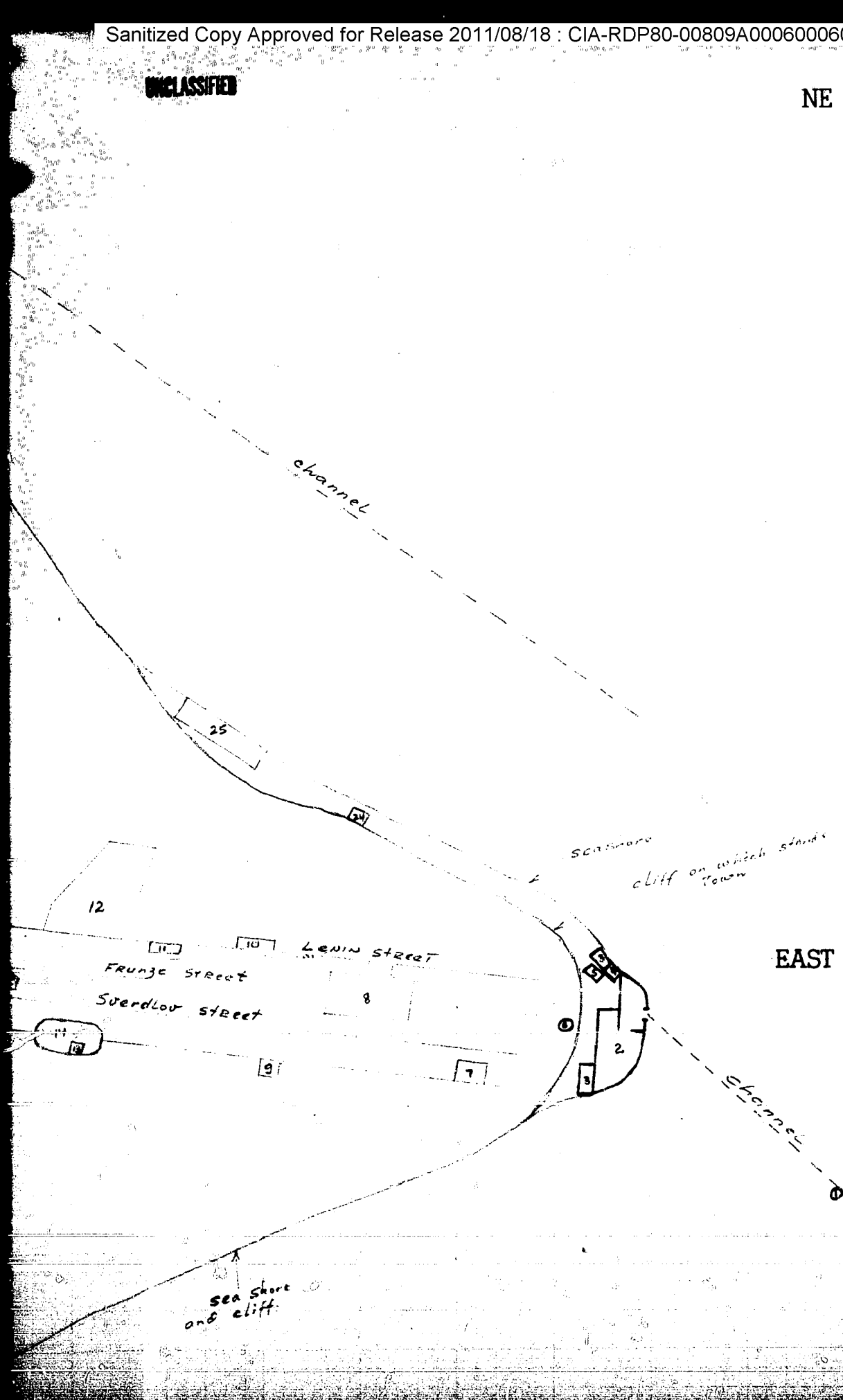

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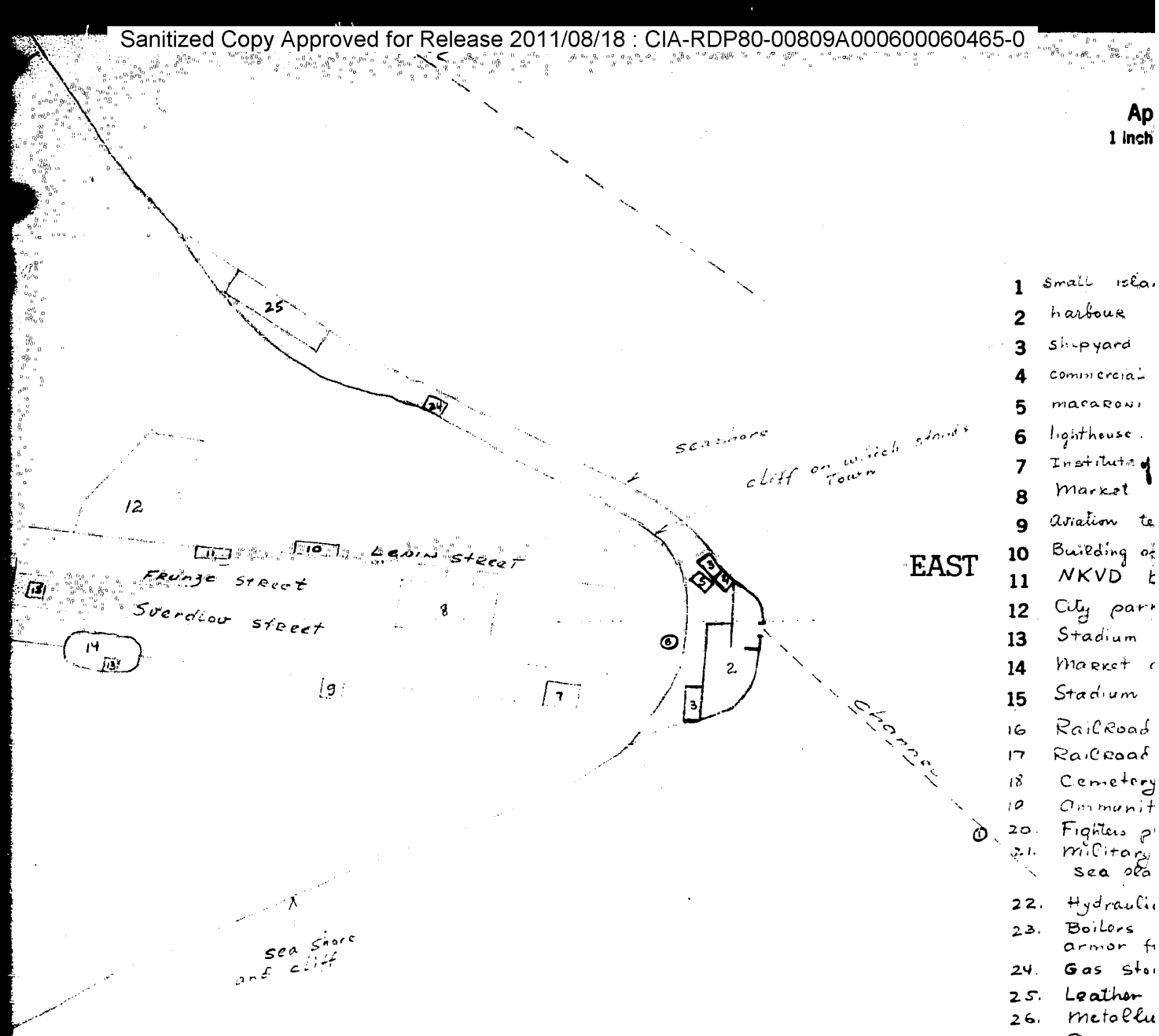

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INSTRUCTIONS

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SKETCH MAP OF

Taganrog, Russia
USSR

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Date: 1942
Transmitting unit:
Key reference point:

Coordinates (if known) 47°14'N - 38°57'E

Approximate Scale
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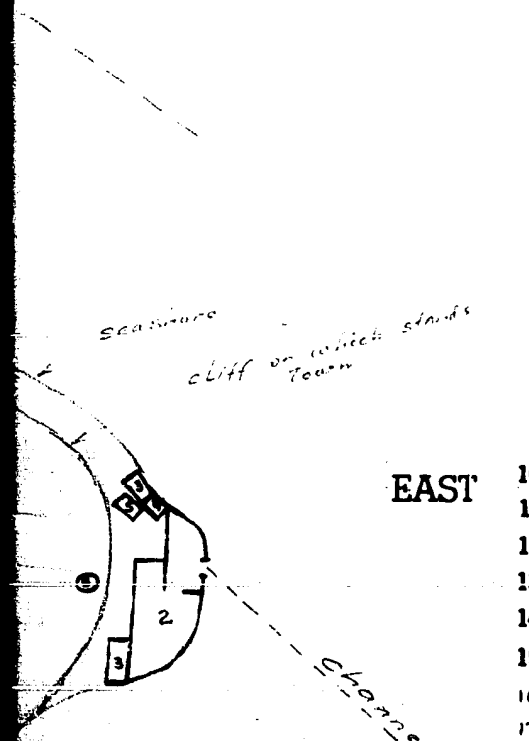

KEY

1. Small island with lighthouse
2. harbour
3. Shipyard
4. commercial Naval station
5. macaroni factory
6. lighthouse. top about 250 yds above sea level
7. Institute of Mechanical Agriculture
8. Market area
9. Aviation technical school
10. Building of Communistic Party Committee
11. NKVD building
12. City park
13. Stadium
14. Market area
15. Stadium
16. Railroad station
17. Railroad Repair Shops
18. Cemetery
19. Ammunition plant No. 65
20. Fighter plane plant No. 31
21. military airport with Landing for sea planes
22. Hydraulic press plant
23. Boilers plant. During war made armor for tanks.
24. Gas storage tanks.
25. Leather processing plants
26. Metallurgic factory
27. Railroad station outside city limit.

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Approximate Scale
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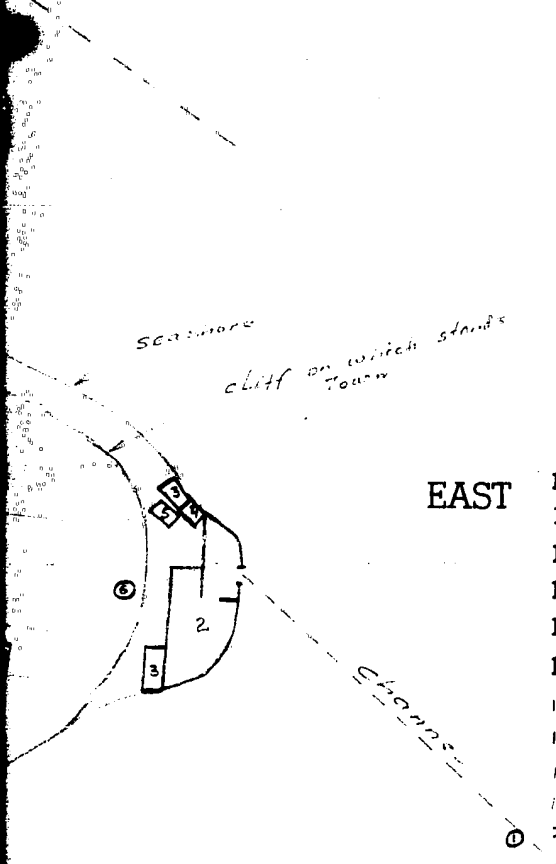

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19. Ammunition plant No. 65
20. Fighter plane plant No. 21
21. Military airport with landing for sea planes.
22. Hydraulic press plant
23. Boilers plant. During war made armor for tanks.
24. Gas storage tanks.
25. Leather processing plants
26. Metallurgic factory
27. Railroad Station. outside city limit

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF SKETCH MAP GRID

1. *This plotting grid has been devised to fill a need for a systematic method of producing accurate [redacted] sketches. By the use of a "grid-compass" system such as this, greater accuracy of scale can be achieved, and a frame of reference will be available for presenting interview information in graphic form.*
2. *The chart is divided into inch grids, which in turn are subdivided into five spaces. The scale would normally be 1 inch equals whatever distance the compiler would decide when beginning the sketch. A standard ratio such as 1"=100 meters, 1"=1 mile, etc., would be preferred, although any unit of measure, in either the English or metric system, is applicable.*
3. *The key reference point for originating a [redacted] sketch using this plotting grid may be at the intersection of the compass lines at the center, or at any other point clearly marked by the compiler. This would be any fixed location with which he is familiar (e.g., a prominent industrial installation, railway station, compiler's home, etc.) If the only precisely known location is beyond the limits of the sketch map, a note should be made of the distance and direction in which it lies. Should the compiler be familiar with several sections of a given town or area but not the complete town or area, he could sketch several charts with a key reference point for each.*
4. *The [redacted] sketch may be drawn directly on the printed grid, or it may be drawn on a semi-transparent overlay using the grid mesh for determining distance and direction.*

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